SHANKLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Drugs Education Policy

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Approved for issue by:	Gareth Pearson	Signature	Date
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Responsibility for review:	Curriculum Committee		

Shanklea Primary School Drugs Education Policy

Introduction

In 2004 the DfE updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance, as well as the content of the QCA schemes of work. It also accords with advice in the Healthy Schools Programme, guidance from the LEA, and guidance from the local Drug Action team

Drug education prepares pupils for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their life. It incorporates skills, knowledge and concepts in the following areas: personal, social and health.

Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Develop the knowledge and skills to help them become confident, healthy individuals
- Develop their own self-esteem and emotional well-being and encourage others to do so
- Encourage a healthy respect for all substances taken into the body
- Raise pupils awareness of drugs so that they can make informed decisions about their own drug use in order to reach their full potential
- Enable pupils to explore their own and others feelings, views, attitudes towards drugs and drug related issues
- Give children the confidence to say 'no', and to begin to make informed decisions and choices
- Enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to *all* drugs:

- all *illegal* drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971);
- all *legal* drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

Shanklea Primary School Statement

Shanklea Primary School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

Drug Education is a whole school issues. All staff; including support staff, caretaker, lunchtime supervisors are aware that if there are any queries/issues these should be raised with the Head Teacher or PSHCE coordinator.

Responsibilities

The Head Teacher will:

- Ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy;
- Ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- Manage any drug-related incidents;
- Ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- Liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;
- Monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The coordinator will:

- Take the lead in policy development
- Take responsibility for the purchase and organisation of central resources for drug education
- Keep up to date with the developments in drugs related matter and disseminate information to colleagues as appropriate

The governing body will:

- Designate a governor with specific responsibility for drugs education;
- Support the Head Teacher in following these guidelines;
- Inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy;
- Liaise with the LEA and health organisations when appropriate, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- Support the Head Teacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

Objectives of drugs education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- Build on knowledge and understanding;
- Provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings;

- Explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- Develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem;
- Ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

Drugs Education

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE and citizenship, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time/Philosophy for children.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

In Key Stage 2 pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers.

We liaise with outside agencies to support with the delivery of drugs education and annually invite the Life Education Centre into school to support with delivery. Also PSHCE TEAM from Northumberland Education Directorate visits school to take a whole school assembly and visit classes to deliver the information about drugs.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together, and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. In teaching this course we follow the DfE and LEA guidelines. The resources and materials that we use are

recommended either by the Health Authority or by the LEA. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Drugs at school

There are clear guidelines in school with regard to the administering of medicine.

Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medication received and given. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma); other drugs will be stored securely in the medical room.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with older, solvent-based Tippex, with aerosols, with glues and with board-cleaning fluids.

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the Head Teacher. (There is a No-Smoking policy in operation).

Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol we must be licensed under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act, 1983. Occasionally, members of staff may consume limited amounts of alcoholic drinks in the staff room.

Drugs incidents

What to do in the event of finding a drug or suspected illegal substances

Take possession of the drug/substance or suspected illegal substance and inform the Head teacher and/or PSHCE coordinator. If neither are available inform a senior member of staff, i.e. Deputy Head with date, time and place of discovery.

If substance is to be handed onto police, then store in a secure place. The substance should be securely packaged and labelled with time, date and place and signed in the presence of a witness.

It is legally permissible not to inform the police and any substance seized can be disposed of by incinerating or flushing away. This action will prevent the continuation of the offence by the young person. It is again vitally important that this course of action is witnessed by another member of staff and it is advisable that a report is made and signed by both members of staff.

In the event of a hypodermic needle being discovered DO NOT PICK UP THE NEEDLE, COVER IT WITH A BUCKET OR OTHER CONTAINER then the Head Teacher/PSHCE coordinator should be informed and they will deal with retrieving the needle.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school drugs policy;
- Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, there is no legal obligation to inform parents but it is recognised that they can be useful allies and can be beneficial in resolving a range of difficulties. Where possible the Head Teacher should negotiate with the child concerned so it done on their terms. As far as possible it is advisable to speak to parents face to face. In some rare cases it may be thought problematic and not in the child's interest to contact the parents (check child protection guidelines and register). In such cases a record should be kept of why the parents were not contacted. It is advisable at the end of this record to add that "parents may need to be contacted in the future".

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

Contacting the Police: Schools are under no legal obligation to inform the police when a drug incident or offence has been discovered. Contacting the police is at the Head's discretion.

STAFF SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IF PUPIL IS CAUGHT WITH GIVING DRUGS TO A FRIEND THEY COULE BE CHARGED WITH SUPPLY and factors such as the age of child, type of drug involved etc. should be considered.

HOWEVER the school is keen to maintain a positive partnership between themselves and the police.

YOU CAN RING THE DRUGS LIAISON OFFICER WITH A SCENARIO FOR ADVICE.

Confidentiality: Pupils disclosing information about drug use by themselves, or by people they know, should be reminded that the teacher cannot offer absolute confidentiality. Parents and/or police and/or other agencies (i.e. social services) may be informed of the incident.

Monitoring and review

The curriculum committee of the governing body will monitor the drugs policy. If the policy appears to need modification, then the committee will report its findings and recommendations to the full governing body. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme, and comments will be recorded. Governors require the Head Teacher to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the drugs education programme taught in this school.